

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 are pending in the application. Claims 1-15 are rejected.

Claims 1-15 have been amended herein to clarify applicant's claimed invention. The grammatical content was improved to clarify what was inherently present. No new matter was entered.

Claim 14 stands rejected under 35 USC 112 first paragraph for failure to comply with the enablement requirement.

Claim 14 describes the receiver communication unit controlling a waveform received from another communication unit depending upon the slot position between the two units. It's asserted in the Office Action that the specification only describes the controlling of a waveform from the transmitter side communication unit.

However applicant respectfully submits that the receiver communication unit controlling a waveform is fully supported in the original specification as outlined below.

Page 34, lines 5-6 of applicant's specification describes 'equalization control' and specifically written is "the reverse signal control on the receive side is called 'equalization control.'"

Page 35, lines 7-19 of applicant's specification describes "Furthermore, in the receive side LSI circuit 18-5 (18-6), the attenuation control section (receive side waveform control section) 44 controls the input waveform of the main signal data received in the receiver 41 through the backplane 3 [signal line 31-i (32-i)], in accordance with a control signal from the CPU 41-1 of the control circuit 40, thereby implementing the waveform control according to the main signal data transmission distance on the backplane 3. For example, this function is

realizable by adjusting the degree of attenuation in a variable attenuator (not shown) provided at an input portion of the receiver 41.”

In addition page 35, lines 12-16 describe “in accordance with a control signal from the CPU 41-1 of the control circuit 40, signal from the CPU 41-1 of the control circuit 40, thereby implementing the waveform control according to the main signal data transmission distance on the backplane”.

Also, for example, on page 47 starting on line 6 and Fig. 8 the communication line(s) for interchange of information between transmission and reception circuits is described.

It is respectfully submitted that the original specification provides one skilled in the art with enough information and details to enable the use of the invention without undue experimentation and therefore the rejection should be withdrawn.

Claims 1-13 and 15 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over Lee (US 6,256,235).

In the Office Action it is admitted that Lee does not describe communicating between units installed in a plurality of slots.

In the Lee reference it is described that compensation for the length of data paths is performed by sending a signal onto the bus and having it looped back to the controller to determine the distance a signal must travel. This is different from the claimed invention where the signal is controlled on the basis of the slot position information in the backplane circuit.

The reference does not teach or suggest slot position information.

The Office Action points to “interrogating the modules in populated slots 7:54-67 and 8:1-6.”

This section of Lee describes "For this to occur, the memory controller 11 sends a data signal to the bus and has it loop back to the controller. The arrival time of the loop back signal represents the transmission path delay which can be used by the memory controller to program the time of...." (emphasis added).

This is different from applicant's claimed controlling a waveform of the signal on the basis of installed slot position information of said communication units.

Lee's determining of transmission delay time is different from the slot position information of applicant's claims. One skilled in the art would not arrive at applicant's claimed invention from the reading of Lee.

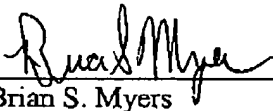
Applicant's independent claims each include at least the feature of the controlling the waveform based on the slot position information. The dependent claims include additional distinguishing limitations.

For at least the foregoing reasons it is respectfully requested the rejection be withdrawn.

In view of the remarks set forth above, this application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested. However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Any fee due with this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,



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